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16-27179-5 GPO



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AN ADDRESS

*At a Public Meeting at Richmond, Kentucky on
April 10, 1901.*

By

L. H. BLANTON, D. D., LL. D.,

Chancellor of Central University.

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G.F.
MRS. WOODROW WILSON
NOV. 25, 1939

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Alumni, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

INTRODUCTORY.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your courteous invitation to address the Alumni of Central University, and citizens of Madison county on this occasion. A friend said to me, yesterday, that he doubted whether I ought to be present at this meeting, that there was great excitement among the people, and indignation because of my connection with the plan to remove Central University to Danville. "If this be so, then," said I, "so much the greater reason for me to go; but I think you are mistaken, a Madison county audience, I know, will give me a patient and impartial hearing."

In the difficult work of the past twenty-one years, I have had some sharp experiences, but I have been cheered often by the words of Mr. Gladstone on a memorable occasion. Referring to a letter written by him to the untruths and misrepresentations made regarding him in an English journal, the great Premier said: "Calumny is rife, everywhere in default of argument, and if I were to spend my time in defending my past life, which has been passed in the face of my countrymen, I would have to withdraw from the defense of a great cause, which I have at heart. The only way for me to do is to go right ahead and do my work. I will not rise every now and then and explain and certify that I am not so bad as some people say and think, but I will walk straight ahead, and let my work speak for itself. It will all come right, by and by."

And the late President Garfield, on the occasion of his election to the United States Senate, addressing the Ohio legislature, spoke to the same point: "I have tried hard to please my constituents who have so honored me in the past, but I want to say to you that I have tried harder to please myself—to satisfy my own conscience, for I have my conscience with me wherever I go." I, too, have tried hard to please those who put me in this responsible position—the Board of Curators. And I have tried hard to please the faculty and students of Central University, and the people of Richmond and Madison county, but I have tried harder to please myself, and to satisfy my own conscience. But, I want to say to you, gentlemen, that I have been trained in a philosophy better than Gladstone's or Garfield's. A saintly Baptist mother, whose faith was

that of my noble friend Major Burnam, and an honored Presbyterian father—a faithful, honest, loving couple, who walked in the right path themselves and taught me to walk in it, instilled into me the principles of a sturdy Calvinism, and on this immovable foundation I stand to-day, believing, with all my heart, that “all things work together for good to them that love God,” and I know that when this storm blows over I shall stand vindicated by every intelligent and honorable man and woman in this audience, and of this whole county, who will take the pains to ascertain the facts.

I do not propose to answer public clamor, nor have I a word to say to the man who is not responsible for either his words or his acts; who was not reasoned into his position, and who can not, therefore, be reasoned out of it. But I want to speak to three classes: First, these young alumni—intelligent, earnest, active and devoted to their alma mater. Second, the men and women who gave their money to locate the institution here, and who have stood by it for twenty-seven years. Third, the large class who may not have given any money nor sent their sons to it, yet feel an intelligent interest in it, and want it to remain in Richmond. From all these I ask a patient and candid hearing.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY.

In order that you may understand the present situation, it will be necessary for me to give you a brief sketch of the University from its founding to the present time.

My connection with the University began August 1, 1880, nearly twenty-one years ago. I had been for twelve years located as a pastor at Paris, Ky. I was living in my own house, with an ample salary—comfortable, happy and useful in the work to which I had dedicated my life. About the first of July, I was summoned, by telegram, to Lexington, where the Board of Curators was in session. I was informed that I had been elected the Chancellor of the University. I replied at once, declining the offer, on the ground that I had neither the qualifications nor inclination for such work. I was persuaded, however, to consider the matter for two weeks, and I finally consented to submit it to the decision of the Presbytery. It was decided, by one majority, that I should go to Richmond. The University at that time was practically closed. The Rev. Dr. Rutherford Douglas, a short while before had been elected Chancellor, and, after looking the field over, declined the office, on the ground that he

could see no hope of resuscitating the institution, and it was turned over to Drs. Logan and Barbour and Prof. Wilson, to make what they could out of it. During the session of 1879-80 there were in attendance, as near as I can estimate, for no catalogue for that year was published, about sixty students in the college proper and preparatory, and about an equal number in the Hospital College of Medicine at Louisville. There was not a dollar of invested funds. Mr. Walters owed \$7,000 of his original subscription, and a few thousands more of unpaid notes and subscriptions remained. With the exception of the naked campus, the main college building, and four professor's houses, everything had to be done, which was necessary to establish an institution of higher education. Professors had to be employed and money raised to pay salaries and meet other necessary expenses; students had to be gathered and organized into classes. It was a difficult task from the beginning. The general discouragement arising from failure and closing the institution, the opposition of some influential men, the indifference of many others—all these stood in the way, and yet the Board of Curators, under the conviction that the honor of the Synod was at stake, went forward with the work, in the face of every discouragement, and succeeded in placing the institution in an enviable position in Kentucky and throughout the South. Large sums of money have been raised for its endowment, equipment and maintenance. There has been an annual attendance of from one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred students in the College of Philosophy, Letters and Science, at Richmond. The attendance at the Hospital College of Medicine has gone up from fifty-eight to three hundred and fifty. The Colleges of Dentistry and Law have been organized, and three university schools provided for by the charter, have been added—all of which, with the exception of Middlesborough, are in a most prosperous condition—and the aggregate attendance in all four colleges and three schools is this year about one thousand one hundred and fifty students. This statement, you say, places the affairs of the University in a most prosperous light. Why this agitation? But this is not all. There is another side to the picture. From the beginning, we have had to live from hand to mouth. To build up an endowment, and, at the same time, meet current expenses, was the problem we had to solve. The late Dr. S. B. McPheeters, one of the saintliest and wittiest of men, after removing from a plain country charge in Virginia, to the

Pine Street Presbyterian Church, in St. Louis, said he never understood what the prophet, Daniel, meant when he said he saw "a time, times and a half-time," until he became the pastor of a second rate city church. My friends, in the effort to run a second rate college on a subscription paper, I have seen "a time, times and a half-time."

THE EFFECT OF THE FINANCIAL PANIC.

The great panic of '93, and on through '96, through which the whole country passed, producing universal depression in business, and the greatest stringency in money ever before known, brought the University into serious financial embarrassment.

First. Several corporations, whose bonds we held, suspended payment of interest, and so cut down our income.

Second. The failure of many of our friends, whose notes we held, who were unable to pay either the interest or principal as they fell due. Just before the panic, three gentlemen, staunch friends of the University, subscribed each \$10,000 for the endowment of a professorship. But they sustained such heavy losses, aggregating hundreds of thousands, and were compelled to withdraw their subscription of \$30,000. Another gentleman who had given his note for \$10,000, and who had regularly paid the interest as it fell due, was driven to the wall, and nearly the whole amount was lost. Other smaller subscriptions, aggregating \$10,000, were also lost. In all our losses from the great panic aggregated \$50,000. Against this no human foresight could provide.

Third. Another cause of our straightened condition was the great reduction of our income from tuition fees. From 1880 on to 1890, there was a steady increase of the amount realized from tuitions until the amount went up to between \$7,000 and \$8,000 annually. Then there was a gradual decline, until not one-half of that sum was realized. This alarming result has been brought about by the close competition of the colleges for patronage. Within a radius of thirty miles, taking Lexington as a center, we have the six leading colleges of the state, the State College and five denominational colleges. These competing institutions have been gradually drawn into a most unseemly struggle for patronage, and in this struggle Central University has been at great disadvantage in several particulars.

SEVERE COMPETITION.

First, it is the youngest, by many years, of the Kentucky colleges, and has, perhaps, a smaller fixed endowment than any of the others, with the exception of the Kentucky Wesleyan, at Winchester.

Second, the location of the University, with reference to the other colleges, placed us at a great disadvantage. It stands just on the eastern edge of the Bluegrass Section. Within a few miles of Richmond you enter a region entirely different from Central Kentucky—different as to soil, production and population—which stretches on to the Virginia and Tennessee lines, embracing nearly one-third of the state's territory. From this whole region of Eastern Kentucky we have never received a dozen student's in twenty-seven years, and it will be many years before any considerable patronage can be expected from this region. All our students come from central, northern and western Kentucky, and from the Southwest, and they all must run the gauntlet of all the other colleges to get to Richmond. They must pass the open doors of Georgetown College at Georgetown, Centre College at Danville, the State College and Kentucky University at Lexington, and the Wesleyan at Winchester, in order to reach the University at all, and many a boy has been lost on the way to Richmond.

Third. But there is another and more threatening element in this competition of the colleges. The State College has grown into an institution of great significance and power. It has an annual income of nearly one hundred thousand dollars. The policy of the State to give aid to this college is now definitely settled, and there will be a steady increase of appropriations both from the State and general government. But the State College makes no charge for tuition, only a small matriculation fee is demanded and provision is made for the traveling expenses of a certain class of students. You can see from this statement why there has been such a great reduction in our income from tuition. If the State Bank & Trust Company of this city should agree to loan money without charging interest, it would soon become a very popular bank.

Fourth. But Centre College has been our most hurtful rival. It has a larger fixed endowment than any of the denominational colleges, and has in all respects a better physical equipment, and shares to some extent the buildings and endowment of the Danville Theological Seminary.

This college has a history that no other institution in Kentucky or the Southwest has or ever can have. Two of its presidents before the division of the church were very distinguished men, Drs. John C. Young and Lewis W. Green—distinguished not only for scholarship and ability to instruct in the class room, but for their eloquence, both in the pulpit and on the platform, and especially for their wonderful influence over all classes of young men who entered the college. These men gave Centre College a prestige that can never be lost. Scattered all over Kentucky and the Southwest are the alumni of this institution. Many of them are the most distinguished men of the commonwealth and the country-at-large, and they are bound to the college by ties that can not be broken. Fourteen or fifteen years following the Civil War, the Southern sympathy of Kentucky was at a high tide and there was strong prejudice against the college at Danville. The decision of the courts, giving both the college and seminary to the Northern side, aroused an intense feeling in the Southern Synod. Out of this sentiment sprang Central University, and this was its opportunity. If at that time the University had been amply endowed, a great school might have been built up. But times changed, Central University broke down at the end of six years and had to be resuscitated. The strong Southern sentiment, which gave it birth and sustained it for awhile with unparalleled liberality, gradually subsided. The asperities of the war were smoothed, citizens of all sections and classes were brought closer together. A spirit of unification began to pervade the whole country, church differences were obliterated and Southern ministers commenced going over into the Northern church. You can readily see how this great change in public sentiment would affect both Central University and Centre College. No Southern Presbyterian or Southern citizen now hesitates to send his son anywhere, whether South, East or West—anywhere that suits his inclination or purse.

Dr. Ormond Beatty was succeeded by Dr. Wm. C. Young, as president of the college, a young, active and aggressive man. Taking advantage of the subsiding of Southern feeling and the prejudice growing out of the division of the church in Kentucky, Dr. Young sought in every possible way to win back the alienated friends and alumni of the college, and, to a great extent, succeeded. The election of Hon. J. Proctor Knott as Professor of Political Science, and placing him at the head of the law

department, did much to break down the barriers which prevented many Southern men from sending their sons to Danville.

THE PRESENT SITUATION.

As matters now stand, we have in Kentucky two Presbyterian colleges within a stone's throw of each other, occupying the same narrow field, a very narrow field, for there are great institutions all around us—Vanderbilt and the University of Tennessee on the south, the University of Missouri on the west, the University of Cincinnati and numerous state institutions, with large endowments, on the north, and Washington and Lee, the University of Virginia, and the more powerful universities of Princeton, Yale, Harvard on the east, constantly drawing off the pick of Kentucky patronage—why the very men who founded Central University, some of them, sent their sons to these great institutions. And who can blame them? Two Presbyterian colleges in the bluegrass region, occupying the same narrow field, one Southern in its ecclesiastical relations, with no very strong Southern sentiment behind it—the other Northern in its ecclesiastical connection, but with no strong Northern sentiment behind it. Centre is old and well endowed and has many free scholarships at its disposal. Can you not see what an unequal struggle we are waging? But there is another discouraging feature: the great body of the students at Centre College are distinctly Southern in their sympathies, and not a few identified with the Southern Synod, and, all else being equal, would be at Richmond instead of Danville. But they are at Danville, and on account of the strong competition between the two colleges, the great mass of them become hostile to the University, and, to some extent, prejudiced against the church which sustains it. It is not too much to say that many of our Southern Presbyterian boys go out with their graduating classes, year after year, with their love and zeal for their own church greatly abated by reason of this unhealthy competition. This may not be a matter of interest to the people of Madison county, but to the men outside who have given their money so freely to maintain the University, it is regarded as a most serious and unfortunate complication.

ANOTHER OBSTACLE.

Another obstacle: we have failed to get the patronage from Madison that we had the right to expect. It may

have been our fault, but it is a fact. We have tried hard to get it. Every year an active canvass has been made. Professors Roberts, Chandler, Sanderson and others have scoured the county every year, but the results have not been satisfactory.

I make no complaint of this. It is a part of my philosophy not to complain about anything. To complain of anything you can't help is unnecessary, and to complain of anything you can help is unmanly, so I bring no complaint against the people of Madison.

It is the right of every man to send his son wherever he chooses. I am a free-trader in education, as in everything else, but I must state the facts. I turn to the catalogue of Central University for 1894, when the aggregate attendance was two hundred and ten. Of this number sixty-one were in the college and in the preparatory from the county of Madison. I turn to my matriculation book for the current year, ending in June next, and I find that there are forty-three students from Madison county, in both the college and preparatory, who pay \$1,335 for tuition. I take the catalogue of Centre College for 1894, and it shows that there were in that institution from the little county of Boyle—about one-half as large as Madison—sixty-three students in the college proper and about one hundred in the preparatory. If Central University had received from Madison county that year the same number of students that entered Centre College from Boyle, our matriculation would have been over three hundred, larger than that of Centre College, and the institution would have been self-sustaining. But notwithstanding these difficulties and discouragements, the work has gone forward, and the results, after twenty-seven years, are such as the Presbyterians of the state need not be ashamed. Nearly three hundred young men have gone forth as graduates from the College of Arts, and many of them have become distinguished in all the professions—ministers, lawyers, physicians, professors in colleges, and many others are successful in the various avocations of life. Nearly all of them have reflected honor on their alma mater, and have rendered honorable and useful service to the country.

The two colleges, with an attendance of one hundred and eighteen, in 1880, have developed into a splendid system of academic, collegiate, professional and theological schools, with an aggregate attendance this year of over eleven hundred.

MADISON COUNTY'S CONTRIBUTION AND ITS GAIN.

But what about Madison county's contribution of \$110,000 to secure the location of the University at Richmond? What has become of that? I have already explained that, with the exception of a part of Mr. Walter's subscription, and a few thousands of smaller subscriptions and notes, the whole had been used in equipment and in the maintenance of the institution. And I wish it to be distinctly understood that I have no criticism to make on the management prior to 1880—not one word. The men then in charge were of distinguished ability, and rendered splendid service to the cause of education. A great panic struck the institution at its very opening, and these gentlemen did the very best they could under the circumstances.

In the four graduating classes of 1877-8-9-80, there were seven men from Madison, R. R. Burnam, H. L. Wallace, Rankin Mason, Jno. Barbour, Dan'l Breck, Tevis Cobb and Jerry Sullivan, who are worth more to the county to-day than all money given to secure the location of the University at Richmond. But let us look at the subscription of Madison. Here is the original paper turned over to the Alumni Association, on the strength of which the University was opened here, amounting to \$101,345, dated September 15, 1873. Of these subscriptions after a careful examination of the books, I have not been able to find but \$68,000 as being paid. Assuming that there are some names that have been omitted or overlooked, it will be safe to say that not exceeding \$75,000 were paid. But from this amount must be deducted \$8,260 contributed to the permanent endowment fund and formed no part of the local fund, although included in the Madison county offer. And there must be deducted, also, \$24,200 transferred by certain Madison county subscribers from the local fund to the permanent fund in order to make up the \$150,000 required by the charter before the University could be opened. These two amounts aggregate \$32,450, which, taken from the \$68,809.23, leaves \$36,359.25, or from \$75,000 if it is discovered that the county paid that amount, \$42,550, to be distributed among some two hundred subscribers, many of whom are dead, provided there is either a legal or moral obligation to pay back the money resting on the new corporation. To the \$68,809.23, or the \$75,000, as the case may be, must be added about \$12,000 contributed to the University since 1880, making in all \$87,000 as the total contributions of

the county. This was a handsome contribution to the cause of higher education, from which the county has reaped so rich a reward. But, gentlemen, the Presbyterians of the state, outside of Madison, have made large contributions, and their judgment as to what is best for the great cause of education in which they embarked twenty-seven years ago is entitled to consideration. They brought, when they came, \$127,000, then from 1880 on to the present time, first subscriptions of \$50,000, then \$100,000, then about \$50,000, of the splendid contributions secured by Rev. Dr. McElroy, and some \$30,000 later, a total of \$357,000.

The expenses of running the institution for twenty-seven years, at \$15,000 a year, have aggregated \$400,000. There has been an average annual attendance of students from a distance of from one hundred to one hundred and thirty-five. Each man has spent on an average of \$300 a year, and for the average of one hundred young men the whole amount is \$710,000, making a grand total of \$1,467,000 expended since the location of the University, in 1874, and from sources outside of the county.

In addition, the University has given annually free tuition to about fifteen county boys, amounting to \$750 a year, and for twenty-seven years over \$18,000.

Gentlemen, does it not occur to you that the Presbyterians outside of Madison county, for every dollar brought here was contributed by Presbyterians, have some rights which ought to be protected? And when they say the time has come for uniting their forces for a greater work, they deserve, at least, respectful attention.

CHARGES ANSWERED.

But before passing on I must stop to answer some of the charges and insinuations which have been freely made, both before and during the present agitation of consolidation. Now, I do not object to criticism. You have the right to your opinion of me personally, or of my fitness for the position I hold, but no man can attack my personal or official integrity, if I know it, without being called to account.

First. It is charged that the money of the institution has been wasted—that Col. Bennett Young, for instance, dumped on me a lot of his second mortgage K. & I. Bridge bonds, and that the University lost out. In the first place I want to say that I have never had a bond transaction of any kind with Colonel Young. My dealing with

Colonel Young has been mainly to solicit from him, from time to time, subscriptions to the University, and he has paid into our treasury, since my connection with the University, sums which aggregate \$5,000.

I did buy on the market \$20,000 of K. & I. Terminal Bonds, paying eighty-five or ninety cents. Litigations ensued, and I sold the bonds for seventy-five cents, losing from \$2,000 to \$3,000 on the transaction. But I bought Southern bonds below par and they are now worth 1.17. And I entered into a private transaction, which did not involve the University, and made \$2,000, which I turned over to the University, and I invested \$2,000, with the consent of the board, in the bonds of the Glyndon Hotel—just as Stone Walker, Kit Chenault, John Bennett, W. B. Smith and Hon. A. R. Burnam did; but I held these bonds until they settled down to their market value and then turned them over to the University at seventy-five cents, pocketing the loss of \$500.

But, suppose I had lost the whole amount invested in K. & I. bonds. Did not my friend, Major Burnam, invest largely in one of the banks at Louisville and lose heavily? And did not all these splendid Richmond financiers invest in mining stocks and railroad construction, stocks, and lose all? And did not my friend, Jake Collins, with a head full of business sense, invest in corner lots in Pineville, Beattyville and Irvine?

The fact is, my friends, that Central University passed through the trying times of 1893-6, maintained its credit and lost only a few thousand dollars of its invested funds. But it did suffer heavy losses in other ways, as I have already explained.

Second. But some one has said that the local management has been extravagant. When I heard this I wrote to the proper officials in the various colleges, and I hold in my hand letters from Professor Fuqua, of Bethel; Dr. Yager, of Georgetown; Professor White of Kentucky University, and I received reliable information as to the annual expenditures of Centre College and the State College, and with the exception of Bethel, the expense of running Central University has been from \$5,000 to \$7,000 less than the amount expended by either Georgetown, Kentucky University or Centre College. I need make no comparison with State College, for it has an annual income of nearly \$100,000.

Fifth. But it has been said that no one knows anything about the financial condition of the institution—that I never make any reports. I hold in my hands two

certificates, one from the Rev. C. T. Thompson, of the Auditing Committee, in which he states that he had audited my accounts for the past two years and found them correct, and every expenditure sustained by a voucher.

And here is the certificate of the Rev. Dr. E. M. Green, Secretary of the Board of Curators:

Danville, Ky., April 8, 1901.

I hereby certify that whenever requested to do so, the Chancellor has given the Board of Curators a statement of the funds and assets of the University; that such a statement was made at the meeting held in Lexington, Ky., February 22, 1898, and was spread upon the records, pages 201 and 202. A supplementary statement was made at the meeting held during the sessions of Synod, at Danville, October 18, 1899, and recorded on pages 216 and 217; and again at the meeting in Richmond, June 12, 1900, and recorded on page 223.

I further certify that the accounts of the Chancellor have been regularly audited and approved by the board.

Attest:

E. M. Green,

Secretary Board of Curators, Central University.

Gentlemen, there has not been a day during the past twenty-one years that the Board of Curators did not know, or could not have known, all that I knew about the business of the University, and it is not only unjust to me but cruelly so to the honorable, upright and courageous men who have stood at the breach and conducted the affairs of the institution—some of them since the opening of the University, twenty-seven years ago—such men as Drs. T. A. Bracken, G. H. Rout, H. Glass, J. G. Hunter and others.

Fourth, but what about the Lees Institute at Jackson? Money given to this University has been spent on that mountain college, and other university schools, it is claimed.

The charter, providing for the establishment of those schools, states: "That only such funds or property shall be used for their support as may be subscribed or donated for that purpose." It is sometimes necessary for me to use the credit of the University to protect these institutions. But the cashier of the Richmond National Bank knows that the accounts of these schools are kept separate from the University accounts, and he knows where the money came from to establish and maintain them. We have at Jackson, for example, a plant which has cost

some \$30,000, every dollar of which was given for that specific purpose, and mainly by friends outside of Kentucky, whom I was unable to interest in our work here. They say: "We won't give to a bluegrass college, but we will give to educate the children of the mountain."

Mrs. N. F. McCormick established the departments of manual training and domestic science, and also the McCormick Chapel, on the north side of the river, and she pays the salaries of these teachers and meets all incidental expenses. At the close of the year Mrs. S. P. Lees meets whatever deficit may exist in the academic department—varying from \$1,200 to \$2,000. This I am free to say, is, in my judgment, one of the most necessary and useful institutions in Kentucky. We have in the Lees Institute nearly three hundred and fifty mountain boys and girls, and they are the very pick of the mountains.

I have gone out of my way, with some sense of humiliation, I confess, to meet these cavils which had found lodgment in the minds of some good people who did not know the facts, and because when I leave Richmond, this beautiful city, of as refined and hospitable people as can be found anywhere; where I have spent twenty-one of the best years of my life, and to which my whole family is sincerely attached, I want to leave also the proof of the faithful and honest administration of the affairs of the University.

THE REAL QUESTION.

I come now to the real question at issue, the matter which has so stirred the people of the county and brought together this large, intelligent and deeply interested audience, the proposed consolidation of Centre College and Central University, at Danville, under the name of Central University of Kentucky, and the removal of the Danville Theological Seminary to Louisville, and consolidating it with the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Centre College and the Danville Seminary were founded, the former eighty-two years ago, and the latter nearly fifty years ago, by the undivided Presbyterian church. The endowments of both institutions came from the pockets of all the Presbyterians of Kentucky. Following the Civil War and the division of the church in Kentucky, these splendid endowments went to the Northern side, but neither party, the party winning and the party losing, ever seemed to be satisfied with the result,

as shown by the five distinct efforts running through fifteen years in order to bring about some sort of co-operation in the work of higher education. The two Synods for a time had committees of conference on the subject which met time and again in Louisville. A few years ago the Rev. Dr. Bracken and the Rev. Dr. Waller, pastors of the Northern and Southern churches in Lebanon, invited several gentlemen, representing the two Synods, to meet and see if something could not be done. I was a member of all these committees, and always claimed that we could not consider any but an alternate proposition, by which Richmond should make an offer conditioned upon the removal of Centre College to Richmond, and Danville should make a similar offer for the removal of Central University to Danville. At one of these conferences Dr. Witherspoon and myself submitted a written proposition, pledging Madison county to meet all losses and expenses of removing Centre College to Richmond up to \$70,000. I had not consulted the people, but I knew that I could raise the money in sixty days. The Centre College men refused to consider any proposition that implied the possible loss of their college. And so this alternative proposition for fifteen years blocked the way to any solution of this problem. Five years ago, at a meeting of the Board of Curators, at Lexington, Judge Quincy Ward and Rev. Dr. Bartlett openly advocated a plan of co-operation, by which Central University should unite with Centre College at Danville, on the best terms they could get. I declined to entertain the proposition, and tendered my resignation in the event the board determined to open the question in the way proposed, and I retired from the board until the question was decided. The board, by unanimous vote, determined to drop the whole question. It may be asked why I took such a decided stand at that time, when my position now is the reverse. I answer because I did not believe the time had come for this move. Neither party was ready for it, and I was satisfied that in opening the question in the way proposed, discension would spring up in the Synod, and the friends of Central University divided. And the disintegration of the University would likely follow.

RECENT CONFERENCES.

About the beginning of the year I received, through Rev. Dr. Rout, a message from President Roberts, expressing a desire to see me and talk over important mat-

ters common to the two institutions. He invited me to go to Danville, or, if I preferred it, he would come to Richmond. I wrote to Dr. Roberts, declining to do either, but said I would gladly talk this matter over with him, provided he would meet me in Louisville, where such a meeting would not attract public attention. We met and had a long and pleasant interview and discussed the whole question of a co-operative movement. Both institutions were found to be suffering from a very unhealthy competition, and both felt an inability to cope with the State College, with its great income of nearly one hundred thousand dollars. It was finally agreed that each should select a lawyer, and meet again and discuss the question in the light of their opinions as to whether or not there were any legal obstructions in the way. Dr. Roberts selected Judge A. P. Humphrey, and I chose Col. W. C. P. Breckinridge, who was connected with all the early movements to establish Central University. After a careful examination, the lawyers decided that, so far as they could see, there were no legal obstructions.

At this point I called together the Executive Committee of the Board of Curators, and told them what had transpired, and asked for instructions. And now, gentlemen, you must remember that I am the servant of the board, their agent and representative, just as Mr. Sullivan is the paid attorney of the L. & N. Railroad. It is my duty either to obey their instructions or resign. I do not make this statement in order to shelter myself behind the board, because I heartily concur in their action in this matter, but in order that you may understand my relation to the controlling body of the University. The committee met, and, after discussing the whole matter, promptly rescinded the alternative proposition, which had stood so long, and instructed me to go forward, *make or receive* propositions, and report to the board.

Colonel Breckinridge and myself did formulate a proposition for co-operation, and submitted it to the gentlemen on the other side, which, after deliberation, was accepted by them. In the meantime, owing to the absence of Judge Humphrey from the city, Col. T. W. Bullitt and Hon. R. P. Jacobs were called into the conference; subsequently the Rev. Dr. Blayney, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Centre College, and E. W. C. Humphrey and the Rev. Drs. Hemphill, Lyons and Beattie, representing the Louisville Theological Seminary, at the last conference, on Monday night following the premature publication of the plan in one of the city papers. Other

gentlemen, Dr. Warren, Dr. Marquess and G. W. Welch, Esq., were also present.

CONSOLIDATION PROPOSED AND ADOPTED.

The lawyers, when they came to look closer into the matter, decided that actual consolidation of the institutions was more direct, safer, and, in every way, more satisfactory than the co-operative plan first proposed. This plan of consolidation, after full discussion, on the part of all present, was unanimously adopted, and it was agreed to submit it to the governing boards of the institutions. These conferences, allow me to say, up to this point, were purely voluntary. The gentlemen present did not assume to have any authority. What they did bound no one. As individuals, interested in the welfare of the two institutions, they came to the conclusion that a co-operative movement of some sort was a necessity, and a delay was hurtful to all interests involved.

The boards were called together and spent a day in earnest deliberation, and, by unanimous vote, ratified the terms of the agreement. The result was remarkable. Here were some twenty or twenty-five representative men on one side, and some thirty or thirty-five on the other side, all concurring on matters of the greatest interest and far reaching results. Each man was called on, in turn, to give his opinion, and each man said the same thing. What does it mean? It means, in a general way, that for years past a new spirit had taken hold of the people. A spirit of unification has pervaded all sections and classes, which found its climax in the achievements of Dewey and the Rough Riders on the one side, and Fitzhugh Lee and Joseph Wheeler on the other, melting and cementing the whole country. It means that these divided Presbyterians of Kentucky, after thirty-five years, have come to the conclusion that they could and ought to unite in the great cause of higher education. It is a great movement which has taken hold of the judgment and conscience of the people, and it can not be arrested. You can no more stop it, gentlemen, than you can stop the flow of the beautiful Kentucky river that sweeps around the borders of your great county. And why should we want to stop it? Does it not mean the building up of a great institution, greater than any Kentucky has ever had? Does it not mean better education to the boys of Kentucky, and will it not carry with it great blessings, both to the commonwealth and to the Church?

LOCAL INTERESTS.

But what is the proposition to Madison county? First, that whatever be the legal or moral obligations to the subscribers to the local fund, they shall be faithfully met by the new corporation. If it is decided that these subscribers are entitled to a part or the whole of their subscriptions, every dollar shall be paid. It further provides that the four buildings, the main college building, Memorial Hall, the preparatory, and Y. M. C. A. building, and new gymnasium, the erection of which cost nearly \$75,000, with all the unimproved part of the campus, some twenty or thirty acres, shall be dedicated to a Collegiate Institute, in which thorough instructions shall be given, preparing students for the junior class of the new Central University. And, further, that 15 per cent of all money subscribed to the new institution shall be set aside as the basis of an endowment until \$40,000 additional shall have been secured.

Now, let us see what Madison county will lose by the consolidation. First, it will lose the College of Philosophy, Letters and Science, which, in the face of many difficulties and discouragements, has rendered the county good service in the education of sixty of your young men who hold diplomas of the University, and more than one thousand others, who have received partial training within its walls.

Second, it will lose, probably for a time, a part of the large annual income, which has been yours for twenty-seven years.

LOCAL GAINS.

What will it gain? A model university school, which will give your boys a better training for college than they have ever had. In which, also, they may be trained, if our plans do not miscarry, in all the practical arts, and so fitted for business. This school, if encouraged and supported by Madison county, will, I believe, bring to Richmond as many students as are now here. Yes, such a school, with handsome buildings and fine equipments, with four good professors, with an assured endowment of \$50,000, and two Synods behind it, I do not hesitate to say, will, in the end, be worth more to Madison county than the college, straightened financially as it is and meeting on all sides fiercest competition in the field of collegiate education. In other words, I believe there is a wider field and more demand for an institution of this class than there is for a college with an insufficient endowment.

If, my friends, the college of to-day meant the same thing that it did twenty-one years ago, when I came to Richmond, the problem would be different. But it is not. Conditions have changed. In this marvelous age of progress and expansion, the college also has expanded. The college of to-day means large endowment, handsome equipments, great libraries, strong faculties and adequate salaries, and the Presbyterians of Kentucky—there are only 23,000 of them—are not equal to the demands of the situation. Four times they have responded freely and generously to our calls for help, but they say now that they are not able to keep up the struggle, and their answer is made plain by their response to Rev. J. W. Tyler, an active, earnest and vigorous young minister, who has labored now for more than one year in this canvass for funds, with unsatisfactory results.

CONCLUSION.

My friends, the time is near when I will leave Richmond, whatever be the issue as to this plan of consolidation. What my future will be, I do not know. But I am not anxious about it. God has always opened the way for me to useful employment. If it is best, I am willing again to enter the pulpit, and will gladly minister to the humblest church in which it may be my lot to serve. In leaving, let me say, that I bear no ill will to a human being in Madison county. On the contrary, I will carry away with me a grateful recollection of many noble and generous people, who have encouraged me in all my work, and I will remember to my last breath the noble man whose large donation made possible the location of the University in Richmond, and whose subsequent gifts caused it to be reopened when it had been practically closed, and who stood by me in all my difficult tasks—your most enlightened and enterprising citizen, your most generous patron of higher education, and my steadfast friend—Singleton P. Walters. I trust that the institute, which will bear his name, when opened, fostered by two Synods and sustained by the people of Madison county, will be a fit memorial of this good man, who has gone to his reward, and will prove a great blessing to all the people. I believe that if he were here to-day, his quick intellect and generous heart, looking beyond the limits of Madison county lines, and seeing the great good that would come, both to the commonwealth and the church he loved so well, would approve the action of the board and endorse this great movement.

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